

**OFFICIAL**

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2230  
Date: 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022



**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

- **How many calls do Scotland Police receive to attend to animals, both wild and domestic, that have been injured, require help, or are considered a nuisance and what hours of the day/night are most calls received?**
- **How often have Scotland Police responded to such calls in the past 5 years?**
- **How often have Scotland Police had to euthanise animals they've been called to attend to in the past 5 years?**

In response to the questions above, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, there is no straightforward method to extract data to determine if police attended to an animal due to injury, requiring help or being a nuisance. To determine the level of information that you require a manual examination of all relevant incidents would need to take place. To manage incidents Police Scotland use the database STORM. This data base uses opening and closure codes to identify incident types. For any incident relating to an animal a Police Scotland Service Advisor can select the opening code "Animals" or "Wildlife Crime".

I can advise that in 2022 alone there were 9731 incidents opened between the two codes noted above. A conservative estimate is that it would that it would take 3 minutes to examine a single record, this would equate to over 486 hours.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

**OFFICIAL**

Whilst I would normally suggest that a reduced timescale is considered, in this case as a single vastly exceeds the cost threshold within the Act, I do not believe there is a way to refine your request in this instance.

To be of assistance I have provided the table below showing the recorded STORM incidents of the two categories "Wildlife Crime" and "Animals" broken on Final Incident Type Disposal Code.

<b>Recorded Specified Storm Incidents (Final Incident Type), Broken By Disposal Codes, Police Scotland</b> <sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>					
Period: 6th February 2018 - 31st October 2022 (Calendar Years)					
<b>Storm Incident Disposal Flags*</b>	<b>2018*</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022*</b>
Animals - Straying/Injured	9 858	7 701	5 257	5 349	3993
Animals - Nuisance	3 724	3 478	2 673	2 524	2110
Animals - Abandoned	1 047	966	518	569	508
Animals - Causing Danger	1 975	2 001	1 931	1 916	1681
Animals - Cruelty	1 245	1 206	833	951	789
Wildlife Crime	749	909	1 021	956	671
All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 7th November 2022.					
1. The data was extracted using the incident's raised date and by selecting the final incident types 'PS-85' (Animals) and 'CR-60' (Wildlife Crime).					
2. Out of force incidents have been removed; error incidents have been removed.					
3. Please note, all Police Divisions were recording incidents on the Storm Unity database by the 6th February 2018.					
4. The following Disposal Codes have been selected and displayed within Table 2: (Animals Straying/Injured; Animals - Nuisance; Animals - Abandoned; Animals - Causing Danger; Animals - Cruelty; Wildlife Crime)					
5. Please note, more than one Disposal Code can be attributed to a Storm Incident. Table 2 is a count of the specified Disposal Codes individually. The total number of Disposal Codes displayed within Table 2 is not a true reflection of the total number of unique Storm Incidents.					

- **What training do staff who receive and attend to these calls get regarding handling injured or stray animals and how to euthanise them humanely?**

In terms of Section 17 of the Act, I can confirm that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

Police Scotland officers are not trained to euthanise animals. Should an animal require to be euthanised a vet or the SSPCA would be contacted.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to

**OFFICIAL**

[foi@scotland.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.